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EXCISE

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5578

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSOL PFSHAWAR IMMEDIATE

VIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1406

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1363

E.O. 12356: DECL: CADR

TAGS: MOPS, PROP, UR, AF

SUBJECT: SOVIET "WITHDRAWAL" FROM KUNDUZ

REF: KABUL 1353

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: JOURNALIST WHO ATTENDED CEREMONIES MARKING SOVIET "WITHDRAWAL" OF A MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT AT KUNDUZ OCTOBER 17 TOLD US THAT THE CEREMONY WAS STAGED MUCH LIKE THAT AT SHINDAND (REFTEL) WITH TIGHT SECURITY AND SPEECHES BY DRA PRINCIPALS AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR MUZHAEV. END SUMMARY.

3. DRA AND SOVIET AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THAT A TOTAL OF 2500 TROOPS WERE BEING WITHDRAWN ALONG WITH ALL REGIMENTAL EQUIPMENT. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR JOURNALISTS TO COUNT OR EVEN ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF TROOPS OR VEHICLES ACTUALLY

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ASSEMBLED. THERE WAS NO PARADING OF VEHICLES

PAST JOURNALISTS AS THERE WAS AT SHINDAND. OUR

SOURCE DID REMARK THAT MOST OF THE VEHICLES ON

VIEW WERE COVERED TRUCKS (POSSIBLY 5-TON). THERE WERE FEW

TRACKED VEHICLES TO BE SEEN.

4. JOURNALISTS WERE MOVED FROM THE AIRSTRIP TO

THE AREA OF THE CEREMONIES IN MILITARY TRANSPORT.

THE AREA WAS CORDONED OFF AS PART OF ELABORATE SECURITY

MEASURES. JOURNALISTS WERE TREATED TO RUSSIAN FOOD

SERVED IN AIR-CONDITIONED TENTS.

5. SOURCE ALSO NOTED THAT PORTIONS OF THE OCTOBER 14 PRESS

CONFERENCE FOR VISITING JOURNALISTS WAS MISSING FROM

TRANSCRIPTS PROVIDED THE JOURNALISTS (AND FROM WHAT WAS

PURPORTED TO BE THE FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW PRINTED IN

THE OCTOBER 15 KABUL NEW TIMES). SANITIZED COMMENTS INCLUDED

MINISTER KESHTMAND'S REFERENCE TO THE ABOLITION OF THE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

RECEIVED BY EC DATE 7/29/87

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CONTROL NUMBER 1017615

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DRA REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL UNDER THE SOON-TO-BE-ANNOUNCED
CONSTITUTION AND SOME OF SOVIET GENERAL SATSKOV'S REFERENCES
TO TURKMENISTAN AS DESTINATION FOR THE DEPARTING TROOPS.
(KABUL TELEVISION INCLUDED THOSE PORTIONS DELETED FROM THE
PRINT ACCOUNTS.)

5. ON THE SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 18 IS A PRESS CONFERENCE
WITH GENERAL SECRETARY NAJIB AND CEREMONIES MARKING
WITHDRAWAL OF AN AA UNIT, POSSIBLY FROM THE KABUL AREA.

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